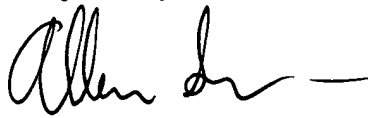


REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is being filed prior to the first substantive office action. Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are in condition for allowance and courteously requests notice that such claims are deemed allowable. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to grant any extensions of time and to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required during the entire pendency of this application to Deposit Account No. 06-1910.

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL

"Express Mail" mailing label number EV 317158765 US. Date of Deposit: January 6, 2004. I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Patent Application, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Stacy Bickel
Name of Person Making Deposit

Stacy Bickel
Signature

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